

# Marine Air-Ground Task Force Secondary Imagery Dissemination System

## DESCRIPTION

The Marine Air Ground Task Force Secondary Imagery Dissemination System (MSIDS) is the Family of Systems (FoS) that provides organic tactical digital imagery collection, transmission and receiving capability to the MAGTF Commander. MSIDS is comprised of components necessary to enable Marines for all echelons within the Marine Expeditionary Force, down to and including battalions and squadrons to capture, manipulate, annotate, transmit or receive images in Near-Real-Time, internally with subordinate commands. The MSIDS capability resides at the MAGTF G/S-2 sections, Ground Reconnaissance units, and Infantry Surveillance Targeting Acquisition Platoons. MSIDS FoS is currently employed in every location world-wide where the Marine Corps participates in military operations. The equipment that comprises MSIDS is made up entirely of commercial-off-the-shelf equipment.

## OPERATIONAL IMPACT

MSIDS provides the only self-contained, hand-held, ground-prospective imagery capability for MAGTF reconnaissance units. This imagery is essential for mission planning and intelligence. Other MAGTF near-real-time imaging systems, such as unmanned aerial vehicles and F/A-18 Advanced Tactical Airborne Reconnaissance System, only provide overhead imagery and cannot capture the detail and ground perspectives available with MSIDS. In asymmetric threat

environments-where targets of interest are often small, highly mobile units, such as terrorists or guerilla groups-it is imperative that the MAGTF be able to identify individuals and structures from the ground level. The required detail is not available from overhead sources. Technology insertions via an increment refresh plan will enable reconnaissance Marines equipped with MSIDS to receive needed technological upgrades in a more timely fashion.

## PROGRAM STATUS

The Marine Corps refreshed the entire MSIDS imagery capability during FY 2002. The FY 2007 refresh will consist of replacing current cameras, upgrading the night vision capability, and completing the fielding of thermal capability. The FY 2008 refresh will consist of replacing all handheld computers and updating the operating software. This effort is essential to the MSIDS life-cycle support and keeps the equipment from becoming obsolete, unreliable, and unsupportable.

Procurement Profile:	FY2007	FY 2008
Quantity:		
MSIDS computers	0	318
Personal Data Controllers	0	0
Cameras	219	0
Night Vision/Thermal	73	0

Developer/Manufacturer:  
Canon, Panasonic and ITT.